

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 27, 2007
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Larry Rauch, Mark Shinbane, Michael Tansey and Paul Vert.

Absent: Ernest Doizaki, Richard Gardner, Donald Kanner, Richard Meruelo, Thomas Payne, William Shinbane and Charlie Woo.

STAFF: Tara Devine, Raquel King, Greg Lee, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick.

CONSULTANTS: Qathryn Brehm and Don Steier

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 12:03pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Molly Rysman, Director of Special Projects, Skid Row Housing Trust, introduced herself to the Board. Rysman distributed literature to familiarize the Board with Skid Row Housing Trust services. She then informed the Board of the organization's 20 permanent supportive housing developments throughout Downtown, the latest development in South Park.

Rysman closed by stating that the Skid Row Housing Trust is very supportive of the LAPD and Safer Cities Initiative. She also mentioned that the organization's property managers have stated that because of the Safer Cities Initiative their jobs are safer and less difficult.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Howard Klein made a motion to approve the February 27, 2007 minutes, and Michael Tansey seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Vert informed the Board that Ken Coelho of RBZ would be presenting a quarterly financial report at the April Board of Directors meeting.

Lopez then reported that the BIDs were in desperate need of new communication radios. She informed the Board that the existing radios were purchased in 2003 and are now on their last leg. The Public Safety Officers have to charge the radios every two hours because the radios cannot hold a charge. Lopez expressed that the inefficient radios pose safety issues for the safety and maintenance teams. Lopez then presented the following options:

- a. Purchase new batteries for \$3,000. Batteries will last one year.**
- b. Purchase new radios, batteries included for \$19,500.**
- c. Leasing Option- \$1,150 for 36 months, \$1,600 for 24 months.**

Paul Vert recommended purchasing new batteries for \$3,000. He stated that the BID could not afford to spend \$19,500 for new radios.

Mark Shinbane suggested checking the radios to see how many are salvageable, and determine how many new radios need to be purchased. The Board agreed.

Larry Rauch made a motion to give authority to the Operations Committee to meet and vote on the battery or radio purchase, and Howard Klein seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

V. TOY DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT

Lopez reported that on March 22nd CCEA met with Toy District property owners to discuss the trash issue in the district, and informed the property owners that the City is focused on the Toy District and are taking a zero tolerance approach to enforcement. She then stated that the Toy District property owners have committed themselves in being apart of the trash solution, whether that entails trash being picked up by the BID or a refuse company.

Lopez then informed the Board that she is attempting to establish a legal vending district in the Toy District, currently the City is cracking down on illegal vending. The City is also citing merchants with merchandise on the sidewalk.

VI. OPERATIONS REPORT

McCormick stated that because of the decrease in individuals loitering in the Skid Row area, it has been easier to approach and refer the mentally ill to the services they need. McCormick then informed the Board that the Mental Health Department would be providing training to the BID Public Safety Officers.

McCormick then reported that the BID Public Safety Officers are working very well with the LAPD. The officers assisted the LAPD with a meter bandit and illegal vending task force.

McCormick informed the Board that a BID maintenance worker was assaulted by a homeless individual and was knocked unconscious. Don Steier stated that the BID should urge the District Attorney's office to charge the perpetrator with a felony assault.

VII. INDUSTRIAL LAND USE

Devine reported that Councilwoman Jan Perry introduced a motion to the Planning and Land Use Committee to remove the Downtown recommendations from the Citywide Industrial Land

Use effort and also directs the Planning Department to convene a stakeholder working group (incl. CCEA, CCA, LA Fashion District & DLANC) to develop recommendations for the area. Numerous people spoke on behalf of Councilwoman Perry's motion, including Estela Lopez. The Planning and Land Use Committee supported the motion and instructed the Planning Department to report back on the status of convening the stakeholder work group.

Devine also informed the Board that CCEA had received the long anticipated memo from City Planner Gail Goldberg. Devine stated that the memo spelled out different sets of circumstances specific to the Arts District, as well as all industrial land such as West LA, Downtown LA and Hollywood.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Jose Cordova, Public Safety Post Commander, informed the Board of the heroism that three BID Public Safety Officers displayed on March 26, 2007. The officers were the first on the scene of a fatal accident that took place on San Pedro and 7th Streets. The LAPD stated that if the BID officers had not been on the scene the driver of the SUV, in which the BID officers resuscitated would have died. BID Public Safety Officer Butler was interviewed by the Channel 4 news.

BID Public Safety Officers provided crowd and traffic control assistance to the LAPD.

IX. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:23pm.